

# BUDGET IS JUGGLED TO PROVE 'ECONOMY'

## Combine Cohorts, Led by Hall, Slash Unimportant Items, But Safeguard Payroll Brigade in Hope of Cutting Tax Rate—on Paper

Juggling with the budget, so called, for the running of the city and county government next year, together with a display of a bewildering assortment of political fake kicks and forward passes, is the favorite indoor sport of the Vars majority in City Council at this time.

City Council these days is sitting as a committee of the whole to consider the budget. Technically, a budget is a set of scientific plans which outline in detail just what the receipts for the coming year are to be and just how the funds are to be expended. This eliminates guesswork and allows real municipal financiers to fix a tax rate which will provide for the needs of the municipality.

With the Vars majority, however, the budget is only another name for fitting the needs of the city to a predetermined tax rate. If the needs do not fit, then they will be squeezed into shape.

The Vars majority wants to be able, once the tumult and the shouting have died down, to say that they have still on the job, to thunder from the housetops that a Vars Council has cut the tax rate by five cents.

**Have Eye on Majority**

A big cut in the tax rate is one of the best known methods of making a hit with the voter. And the Vars leaders admit that they have a weather eye open to the next majority campaign. This will come in 1922, precisely the year following that next year when the Vars hope to make up a reduced tax rate.

To bring this about it will be necessary to anticipate some of the city's income and also to indulge in the ancient economic practice of "hair changing" items in the budget, all of which is contrary to strict budget making as contemplated by the new City Charter. However, it was explained by those who profess to know the ways and wiles of political financiers, all this can be put through nicely. After the next Mayor is elected it may be necessary to revise the tax rate upward—but such a revision would come after the new, and presumably Vars Mayor, had taken office.

This program of the Vars leaders is clearly indicated in a statement supplied to Councilmen by City Controller Hadley, recently elected on the Vars ticket. Mr. Hadley gladdened the hearts of the Vars economists and shocked students of municipal finances when he said that if Council cut the departmental estimates for 1922, which are \$81,150,000, by the sum of \$2,641,000, the budget as finally passed by Council would be \$78,509,000, or only \$1,600,000 more than the Controller's estimates of receipts for 1922 at a tax rate of \$1.67, which is fifty cents less than the present rate of \$2.15.

Then Mr. Hadley indicated that the surplus of \$1,600,000 would be provided for in surplus receipts.

**Would Lop Off Millions**

In other words, the City Controller virtually advised Council that the way to get a fifty-cent reduction in the tax rate was just to go ahead and lop off somewhere, a lump sum of \$2,641,000. Despite the fact that this figure has a very technical look, it is still, according to the Controller, technically short of the mark by \$1,600,000.

The Vars majority, as indicated by announcements made at the meetings of the Committee on the Whole yesterday and last night, is going to do that very thing: lop off this lump sum and make the budget fit the tax rate.

An example of how this is done was supplied when Simon Gratz appeared before Council to discuss the finances of the Board of Revision of Taxes. An item of \$10,000 appeared in Mr. Gratz's budget for printing and engraving.

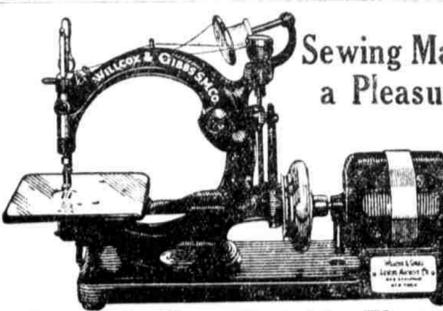
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they did with other county departments. They scowled at items for supplies and maintenance so as to be in good form when the departments under Mayor Moore are considered. Therefore, a cut of \$67,510 for the Municipal Court's item for supplies and maintenance was gradually made.

All the slashing of items for postage, supplies, telephones and furnishings could not smother the general impression that these mighty strokes for economy were in reality the lining up of a fake formation behind which a goal could be kicked for the jobholders. It happens, however, that Councilman "Bill" Roper, Princeton's football coach, is himself an expert on fake formations, and in one instance he correctly diagnosed the play, broke through the Vars line and threw Councilman Hall for a 10-yard loss. Roper even beat his own record on the football field, for he saw the play coming before Hall was ready to call the signals.

**LOIS WEBER'S NEW FILM**

"What Do Men Want?" at Opera House Has Real Theme

Metropolitan Opera House—It is probably a good thing for the photoplay that there is a Lois Weber to write and direct her own pictures. They supply an element which is otherwise almost wholly lacking in the silent drama—the feminine viewpoint.

The feminine viewpoint is the chief feature of interest in "What Do Men Want?" which was first shown yesterday. The technique with which Miss Weber worked out her theme is not always of the best, and the fact solidly remains that one of her greatest faults is to let the theme intrude altogether too much into her story and become a moral, but, taken all in all, "What Do Men Want?" is excellent.

It is a story of a marriage in which the man and girl have entirely different ideas of love and the true conception of marriage. Miss Weber has so worked out her story that it is the man who yields his preconceived notions. Claire Windsor is good as the girl, and J. Frank Glendon acceptable as the man. George Ince, however, as the brother, stands out as the best member of the cast as far as acting goes.

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**LITTLE BENNY'S NOTE BOOK**  
 By Lee Page

It's fellows was setting on my front steps waiting for something to happen, and nothing did and nothing looked as if it was going to, and we all tried to think of something to do and none of us thought, and I said, I tell you lets wait, lets all go around to Puds Simkines and stand outside his parlor window and see if we can hear him taking his music lesson.

Sounding like a pritty bum of a deer but better than nothing, so some of the fellows sed they would go and some sed they wouldn't, the ones that went being me and Skinny Martin and Reddy Merfy and Sid Hunt, and Pudes parlor window was open a little ways and we could easy hear him taking his piano lesson.

and his Germin piano teacher sayin, Vun, 2, tree, 4, vun, 2, tree, 4.

Has, I tell you lets wait, lets pretend we are in the army and Pudes teacher is a officer counting for us to march by, sed Sid Hunt. Being the best deer yet, and we all got in back of each other and started to wawk up and down Pudes pavement stamping out feet as hard as we could keeping time to Pudes Germin music teacher sayin vun, 2, tree, 4, vun, 2, tree, 4, and pritty soon he came and looked out the window to see wat was making all the noise stamping and wen he saw us he started to shake one fist and say a hole lot of stuff in Germin taking him about 3 minutes.

And then he started to go back and I yelled, I bet you wouldn't of sed that if the war wasent over.

Speeking se doytch, yelled Sid Hunt. Hoek der loey, yelled Reddy Merfy. Vass iss loose, ya, yelled Skinny Martin.

Lumberger sourkraut ein wuy dry, I yelled.

Being all the Germin we could think of to yell, and we went back to my house and the other fellows was still setting there and I got up a game of prizners base, the side I was on winning easy.

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